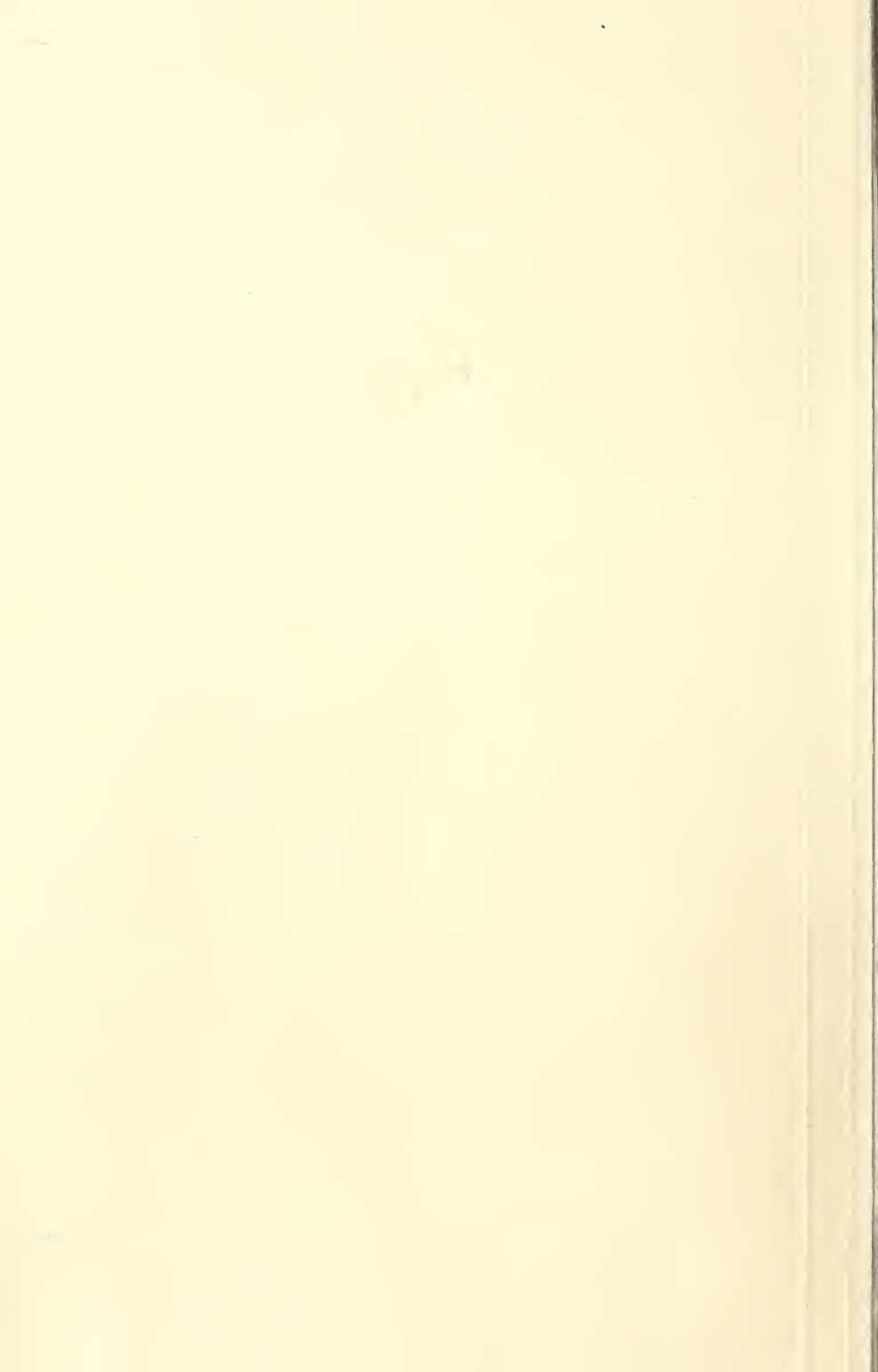


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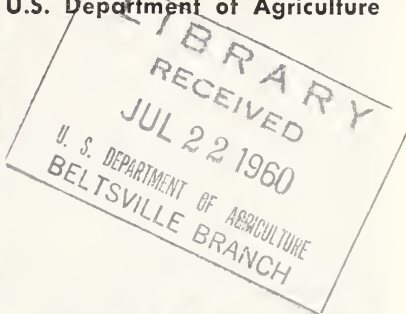


Agricultural Situation

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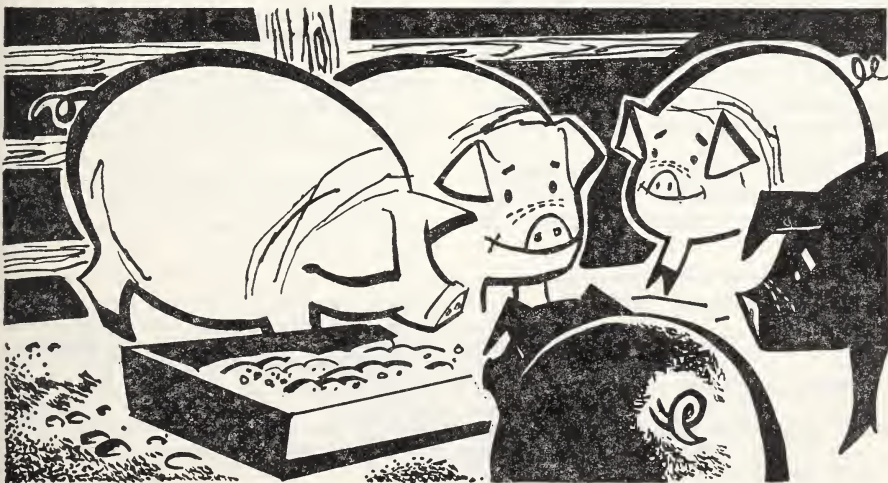
SPRING PIG CROP DOWN 16 PERCENT FROM '59

Our spring pig crop totaled 49.1 million head, 16 percent smaller than the spring crop of 1959.

The decline in spring pigs confirms the outlook for a substantial drop in hog slaughter this summer and for marketings this fall to be below a year earlier. In fact, if producers carry out their intentions for fall farrowings, hog slaughter will continue below year-earlier rates through next winter and early spring.

Hog prices are rising seasonally and have moved above a year ago. Prices this summer are expected to be well above prices last summer, and stay above a year earlier through 1960 and early 1961.

Reports from producers indicate that 5.9 million sows will farrow from June through November—4 percent fewer than in the same period of 1959. If these intentions are carried out and the number of pigs saved per litter is equal





Pig Crop—Continued

to the average, with an allowance for trend, our fall pig crop will total 41.5 million head.

The combined pig crop for 1960 would be 90.6 million head, down 11 percent from the 1959 pig crop and 1 percent below the 1949-58 average.

The 1960 spring crop (December 1959-May 1960) was smaller than a year earlier in all regions. A sharp decrease of 19 percent occurred in the West North Central region. Other decreases were 16 percent in the South Atlantic, South Central, and West, 12 percent in the East North Central, and 1 percent in the North Atlantic.

Sows farrowed in the spring of 1960 totaled 7.1 million head, 15 percent less than last spring and 13 percent below average. Farrowings this past spring were down 3 percent from breeding intentions as reported last December.

Pigs Saved . . .

An average of 6.95 pigs were saved per litter this spring, compared with 7.07 pigs last spring. All regions show a smaller number of pigs saved per litter than a year earlier.

The trend toward a greater percentage of farrowings during the first quarter (December through February) evident in the past 11 years was reversed in the 1960 spring season. The December 1959-February 1960 quarter accounted for 37.4 percent of the spring farrowings compared to 38.5 percent last year.

Compared with last year, all regions show decreases in the number of sows intended for fall farrowings. De-

creases are 9 percent in the South Atlantic, 8 percent in the South Central and West, 5 percent in the East North Central, 3 percent in the North Atlantic, and 1 percent in the West North Central States.

The number of hogs over 6 months old (including sows) on farms on June 1 totaled 15.5 million head, a decrease of 7 percent from a year earlier. The lower inventory reflects the decrease in breeding stock held for 1960 farrowings and the relatively heavy marketings since January 1. Total commercial hog slaughter this January through April was 5 percent above a year earlier.

Corn Belt States . . .

The number of sows intended for fall farrowings is 2 percent less than a year earlier in 10 of the Corn Belt States (Ohio, Ind., Ill., Wis., Minn., Iowa, Mo., S. Dak., Nebr., and Kans.). These States accounted for 73 percent of our 1959 pig crop.

Present intentions indicate that a 6 percent decrease will take place in the June-August summer quarter, but a 2 percent increase will occur during the September-November quarter. Sows expected to farrow in the 10 States during June-August total 2.3 million head. During September-November 2 million sows are expected to farrow.

On June 1 hogs and pigs on farms in 9 of the 10 States (excluding Missouri) totaled 41.3 million head. This is 14 percent less than a year earlier. All of the 9 States showed fewer hogs on farms June 1 than a year earlier.

H. V. Edwards
Agricultural Estimates Division, AMS
Earl Miller
Agricultural Economics Division, AMS

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OUR FOREIGN TRADE IN COTTON TEXTILES . . .

We usually consider that cotton going into our textile mills is for domestic use. And in most years the majority of textiles produced by our mills are sold here in the United States.

But for many years we have exported significant quantities of textiles, and in recent years we have imported significant quantities for our own use.

For example, in 1947 the textiles we exported used about 16 percent of the cotton processed by our mills. In 1959 the cotton used to manufacture imported textiles was equal to approximately 5 percent of our mill consumption.

Per Capita Consumption . . .

This trade significantly affects the downward trend in per capita consumption of cotton which has been so persistent in the post-World War II period.

Before adjusting for foreign trade in textiles, per capita consumption of cotton since 1946 declined from a high of about 32 pounds in 1947 to a low of approximately 22 pounds in 1958. After adjusting for foreign trade in textiles, the figures change to about 27 pounds for 1947 and 21 pounds for 1958. The adjustment changes the downward movement in per capita consumption from 10 pounds to 6 pounds.

The extent of foreign trade in cotton textiles has been difficult to evaluate in the past. The reporting of such trade did not readily lend itself to measurement. Recently, however, a research project was completed which estimated the amount of raw cotton used in textiles entering U.S. foreign trade from 1920 through 1959.

Exports of cotton textiles during the postwar period were in general above those of the the 1920's when the annual average was equivalent to 511,000 bales. The 1946-59 annual average was 717,000 bales. During the 1930's exports of cotton textiles and textile products dropped sharply, probably because of the depression. Then they climbed to a peak of 1,580,000 bales in 1947. Since 1947, exports have trended downward but in 1959 they were still at about the level of the 1920's.

Imports of cotton textiles and textile products were generally at a level of about 100,000 bales from 1920 through 1940. During World War II imports were very low and remained low through 1949. Since then, imports have risen rather steadily and reached a record high in 1959 of about 350,000 bales.

Trade Balance . . .

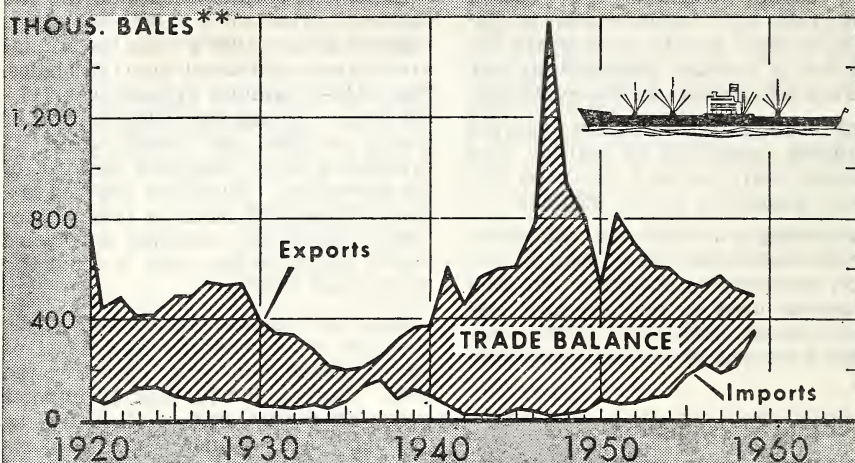
The trade balance—that is, exports minus imports—has varied markedly throughout the period. The peak trade balance in textiles prior to World War II was 661,000 bales in 1920. The peak in the postwar period was in 1947 when exports were large and imports were small because of the dislocation of the textile industries in foreign countries brought on by World War II. The trade balance in 1959 was 142,000 bales, whereas in 1949 it was 764,000 bales.

Excluding 1947 and 1948, which also showed some effects of war dislocations abroad, the rate of decline in exports averaged about 4 percent a year from 1949 to 1959. Imports rose sharply during this 11-year period, amounting to an annual average increase of 21

(Continued on next page)



U. S. FOREIGN TRADE IN COTTON PRODUCTS*



* COTTON EQUIVALENT OF COTTON MANUFACTURES
** BALES OF 480 POUNDS NET WEIGHT

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NEG. 7497-50 (5)

AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

COTTON—Continued

percent. The change in the imports started from a very low point, and in the exports from a relatively high point.

The increase in imports was largely caused by steady increases in the imports of highly processed articles (such as wearing apparel, gloves, hosiery, handkerchiefs, bedclothes, and towels) since 1954 and a sharp increase in imports of yarn, thread, and cloth in 1959. Imports of the more highly processed group in 1959 were about $3\frac{1}{2}$ times such imports in 1954. Imports of yarn, thread, and fabric in 1959 were approximately 77 percent larger than in 1958.

The decline in exports occurred primarily because of smaller exports of yarn, thread, twine, and fabric. Exports of these products in 1959 were about 22 percent smaller than in 1954. Exports of the more highly manufactured products were approximately 3 percent smaller.

Frank Lowenstein
Charles H. Wittmann

Agricultural Economics Division, AMS

THE FARMER'S SHARE

The farmer's share of the consumer's food dollar was 39 cents in April, 1 cent less than in March. In April 1959 the farmer's share was also 39 cents.

PRACTICE SAFETY

ACCIDENTS DON'T PAY

Ask THE MAN
WHO HAD ONE



NATIONAL FARM
SAFETY WEEK
JULY 24-30, 1960



OUTLOOK

Eggs

The seasonal decline in production this year is likely to be greater than usual. The laying flock is now slightly smaller than a year ago, the proportion of older birds is higher, and the number of replacements raised through May this year was 22 percent smaller than in 1959. The production outlook indicates a greater than seasonal increase in prices.



Feed

The seasonal rise in farmers' prices for feed grains—8 percent since December—still left the May index 5 percent lower than a year earlier. High protein feed prices have moved down since the beginning of the year, and in May were 9 percent below May 1959. Live-stock-feed price ratios are more favorable to hog, poultry, and dairy producers than last spring.

Fats and Oils

Exports of fats and oils are heavy this year. A 12 percent increase over 1958-59 to a record export of 3.8 billion pounds is expected for food fats and oils. A boost is coming from smaller supplies from other producing areas, more competitive U.S. prices, and the government export programs. Domestic use of fats and oils is running a little above last year and at a record rate. The increase in use about matches the increase in production. Not much change in stocks next September 30—end of the 1959-60 marketing year—is expected.

Vegetables

Smaller supplies and higher prices than last year for fresh market vegetables are in prospect for the next several weeks. Indicated output for 8 early summer crops is down 8 percent from 1959. Supplies of canned and frozen vegetables are substantially smaller than the heavy supplies of a year ago.

Broilers

Settings and hatchings have been running 10 to 15 percent above a year earlier since early April. Marketings will begin to pick up around mid-July. Prices are likely to hold better than last summer partly because there is likely to be less competition from pork.

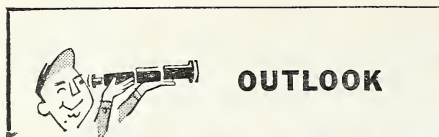
Dairy

Milk prices are running a little above a year ago and are more favorable in relation to prices of both feed and beef cattle. Not much change in milk prices, other than seasonal movements, is likely the rest of the year.



Cotton

Exports of cotton are heavy this year. Cotton shipments for the year ending August 1 are expected to reach 6.8 million bales, 4 million more than last year. Only one other postwar year shows a higher export—1956-57 with 7.6 million. Use of cotton in our coun-



Continued . . .

try also is running above last year . . . about 9 million bales against 8.7 million.

The increased disappearance is expected to trim over a million bales from carryover. The estimated total of 7.8 million bales for August 1 will be the smallest stocks since 1953.



Fruit

Deciduous crops will total smaller this year than last, according to early season prospects. Spring freezes cut output in the Pacific northwest and northern Rocky Mountain States, but prospects on June 1 were generally favorable elsewhere. Bigger crops than last year are expected for peaches and sweet cherries; smaller ones for apricots, pears and strawberries and for plums and dried prunes in California. Not much change in apple production is likely.

Wheat

Heavy exports during the 1959-60 marketing year which ended July 1 practically halted the build-up in the wheat carryover.

Shipments abroad topped half a billion bushels for third time in history. Preliminary estimate is 510 million bushels, a little above the 504 million of 1948-49, but below the 550 million of 1956-57. The 1958-59 figure was 443 million. Use of wheat in this country is near the level of recent years.

Total disappearance for the marketing year just ending about equals the 1959 crop, plus the usual small quantity imported. Carryover on July 1 is estimated at about 1,285 million bushels, only 6 million more than on July 1, 1959 (see the story on p. 11).

The big wheat crop this year indicates build-up in carryover may be resumed in 1960-61. The June 1 estimate set 1960 production at 1,271 million bushels, 13 percent more than the 1959 crop. About 625 million is likely to be used in this country. Exports would have to reach 650 million to prevent a rise in carryover on July 1, 1961.

Hogs

The June pig report confirmed the outlook for a substantial drop from last year in hog slaughter this summer and fall. Spring pigs numbered 16 percent fewer than last year . . . biggest percentage drop occurred in December-February, months that supply most of the hogs for summer and early fall markets.

Hog prices are rising seasonally and have nudged above year ago levels. Peak this summer will be well above the summer of 1959, and prices will stay above a year earlier by a good margin through 1960.

The report indicated that the current cut in production is tapering off. Producers in 10 Corn Belt States plan a reduction of only 2 percent in farrowings for the fall crop . . . a cut of 6 percent the early months of the season, but an increase of 2 percent for September-November (see the story on p. 1).



Cattle

Slaughter will continue above 1959 levels through the second half of 1960. The large number of cattle on feed April 1—8 percent more than a year earlier—and the rate of marketings since indicate heavier slaughter this summer and fall than last year. This is expected to result in modest price declines this summer with little if any recovery this fall. Autumn grass cattle marketings will be seasonally large and above a year earlier.

CALIFORNIA LED STATES IN CASH RECEIPTS LAST YEAR

California's farmers are maintaining their position as leaders in cash receipts from farm marketings. In 1959 California came up with a 6 percent increase over 1958 to lead all States. Its receipts of more than \$3 billion were 9 percent of the Nation's total of about \$33 billion in cash receipts from farm marketing. Cash receipts consist of money received from the sale of farm products and from price support loans (loans minus redemptions). They do not include Government payments such as those from the Conservation Reserve.

Iowa Second . . .

Iowa was next to California—the same position it held last year—with an income of \$2.3 billion, followed by Texas with \$2.28 billion. Illinois was fourth with cash receipts of almost \$2 billion and Minnesota ranked fifth with \$1.4 billion. Other States in the first ten rankings were: Nebraska, sixth; Kansas, seventh; Missouri, eighth; Wisconsin, ninth; and Indiana, tenth.

Although each of the States in the top five positions except California had lower receipts they each remained in the same position as in 1958.

The five States in the top positions received almost one-third of the Nation's cash receipts from marketings of farm products. U.S. totals were down 2 percent on sales of all livestock and livestock products but total receipts on crops were up 1 percent from last year. Total U.S. farm marketings dropped about \$344 million from 1958, influenced by lower cash receipts in over half of the States although there were higher cash receipts in 1959 in 20 States.

In total livestock receipts, Iowa led the way with sales of about \$2 billion followed by Illinois, California, Minnesota, and Texas. Wisconsin, Nebraska, and Missouri were next in line. California led in cash receipts from crops

followed by Texas, Illinois, North Carolina, Florida, and Kansas.

California led in receipts from eggs, barley, dry edible beans, vegetables, potatoes, fruits, and nuts. Iowa had top position on receipts from hogs and cattle and calves.

Following Iowa in receipts from sales of cattle and calves were Texas, Nebraska, Illinois, and California. Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota, and Missouri followed Iowa in hog receipts.

Iowa was followed in sheep and lamb receipts by Colorado, California, Texas, and Idaho.

Wisconsin led the States in receipts from dairy products, followed by New York, California, Pennsylvania, and Minnesota.

Pennsylvania, Iowa, New Jersey, and Minnesota followed California in receipts from eggs. Georgia topped the States in receipts from broilers. She was followed by Alabama, Arkansas, North Carolina, and Maryland.

Texas led the States in cash receipts from farm marketings of cotton lint and seed. California, Arkansas, Mississippi, and Alabama followed Texas, in that order.

Kansas led in receipts from wheat. North Dakota ranked second, followed by Oklahoma, Montana, and Nebraska.

Illinois topped the corn States in cash receipts. Iowa, Nebraska, Indiana, and Ohio followed.

Other Commodities . . .

The top States for other commodities were: tobacco, North Carolina; rice, Texas; peanuts, Georgia; soybeans, Illinois; sorghum grain, Texas; barley, California; oats, Minnesota; dry edible beans, California; flaxseed, North Dakota; rye, North Dakota; vegetables, California; potatoes, California; and fruits and nuts, California.

Gail Devens
Marketing Information Division, AMS
William Mitchell
Agricultural Economics Division, AMS

AROUND THE WORLD WITH PRODUCTION PER COW

When we think of milk production, we automatically think of cows. We do produce some goat milk, but essentially all of our milk comes from cows.

This isn't true in many countries of the world. A good portion of their milk is produced by animals other than cows—sheep, horses, donkeys, buffalo, camels, and reindeer.

Composition . . .

Milk from these other animals varies considerably in its composition from that obtained from cows. Milk from donkeys and horses is the lowest in fat content—less than 2 percent. The reindeer produces milk with nearly 25 percent fat. In terms of total solids (milk fat and all solids-not-fat) the range is from around 10 percent for donkeys and horses to 38 percent for reindeer. Cow's milk averages around 4 percent fat and 13 percent total solids.

Since practically all of our milk comes from cows let's look at production per cow. A number of countries in Northern Europe experienced sharp declines in production per cow during World War II.

This not only lowered the rate of output substantially, as compared with prewar levels, but with the cutback in numbers of cows in many instances during the war, there was a widespread tendency after the war to retain many animals that were on the lower side in terms of productivity. In some instances this tended to hold down the average per cow.

Within the last several years, however, total milk output has been more nearly in balance with demand at international price levels, and more normal culling practices have been employed. In most countries, production per cow has reached record levels within the last 2 or 3 years.

Let's compare our production per cow with that of 13 other countries as reported by USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service. The countries are Austria, Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Ireland, Netherlands, New Zealand, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom. Reliable data on milk per cow are available for only a limited number of countries.

Of the countries considered, the Netherlands led with 9,079 pounds per cow in 1959. The chart shows where the countries stand. Last year was the first postwar year that Denmark exceeded Belgium on production per cow, apparently because the European drought in 1959 affected Belgium much more severely than it did Denmark where feeding of concentrates was increased substantially.

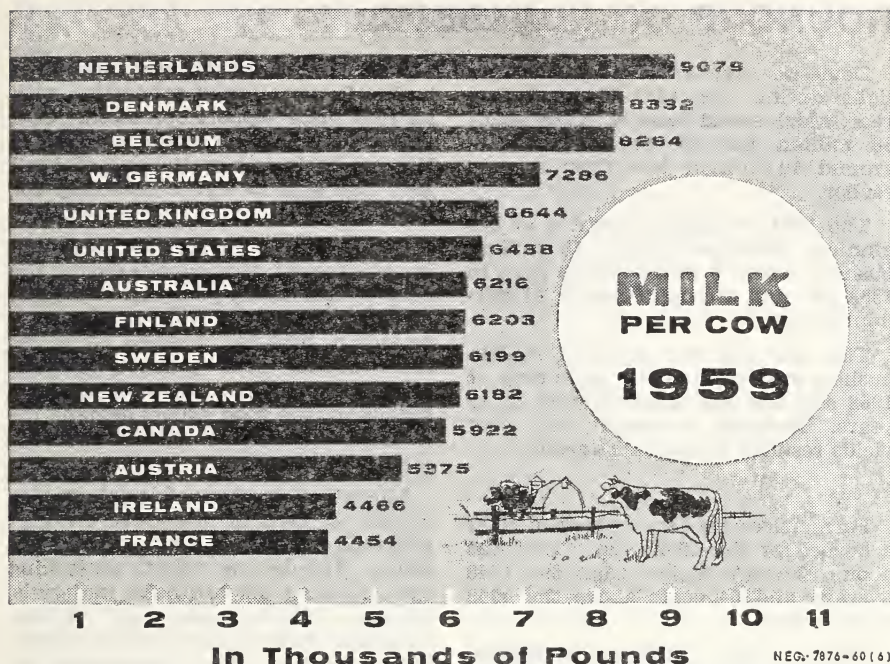
In the United States, some portion of the country where milk is produced is seriously affected by drought almost every year. But with abundant supplies of feed grains available and market supplies of baled hay available, the effects of these droughts on milk production per cow usually are almost entirely offset.

Increases . . .

At no time since the mid-1940's has production per cow in the United States declined from one year to the next. This has not been true in the other 13 countries.

The rate of increase in milk production per cow over the years is by no means a complete measure of improvements in efficiencies of production. However, in all cases it is safe to say that increased production per cow is one factor that has helped to achieve a greater efficiency in milk production.





Here's how much the countries increased their production per cow from 1947-49 to 1959: Austria, 62 percent; Finland, 58 percent; Denmark and France, 32 percent; Canada, 28 percent; Netherlands, 25 percent; Switzerland, 21 percent; United Kingdom, 19 percent; Australia, 15 percent; New Zealand and Ireland, 11 percent; and Belgium and Sweden, 9 percent. In the same period the United States showed an increase of 26 percent.

Most of the 13 countries we're considering have milk production concentrated within only a portion of their area. With the exception of France, milk production in these countries is conducted under pretty much the same conditions throughout their areas.

Conditions . . .

It probably is not unreasonable to say that the general conditions for producing milk vary as much within the United States as they do among the other 13 countries. In 1959, production per cow in the United States ranged from a low of 3,100 pounds in Mississippi and Louisiana to a high of 8,950 pounds in California. Produc-

tion per cow by regions was: Western, 7,822; North Atlantic, 7,539; East North Central, 7,522; West North Central, 6,287; South Atlantic, 5,232; and South Central, 3,978.

Not unlike several countries of the world, the States with the highest averages showed as large or even larger increases than States with lower averages in the past decade or so. It is unlikely that a technological revolution has occurred in dairy farming in the other countries to the extent that it has for dairying in the United States.

But . . .

Scattered returns becoming available from the 1959 Census confirm that a substantial decline has continued in the United States in the number of farms keeping milk cows. To some degree, therefore, the increase reported in the average production per cow might be described as statistical in nature, because some of the farms with low average production per cow are discontinuing operation, while those continuing in business, many of which are expanding, show a higher rate.

Herbert C. Kriesel
Agricultural Economics Division, AMS

ROUNDUP ON FLAXSEED . . .

Domestic supplies of flaxseed were tight during the 1959-60 marketing year, which ended June 30. Only about 38 million bushels were available—around 10 million less than a year earlier.

The 1959-60 supply consisted of beginning stocks of nearly 15 million bushels—about 6 million more than in 1958-59—and a crop of nearly 23 million bushels.

The 1959 crop was nearly 16 million bushels smaller than the large crop of 1958 and was the smallest crop in 15 years. Reduced acreage and poor yields resulted in the short crop.

Prices . . .

Farmers received an average of \$3.02 a bushel for the 1959 crop. This was about 33 cents higher than the 1958 average and 64 cents above the 1959 support level.

Prices of No. 1 flaxseed at Minneapolis rose from an average of \$2.97 a bushel in July 1959 to a peak of \$3.85 in November. But prices dropped sharply in December when it became apparent that supplies in other countries would be more plentiful. They continued downward until a low of \$3.28 a bushel was reached in March. Prices then leveled off and the mid-June average was about \$3.15 a bushel, 15 cents above June 1959.

Crushings of flaxseed during the 1959-60 marketing year are estimated at around 23 million bushels, about a million above last year. The increase was due to the CCC's toll crush of about 2.8 million bushels. The commercial crush was down.

Exports are placed at around 8.5 million bushels, up about 2.5 million bushels from a year earlier. Based on these estimates and allowing 3 million bushels for feed and seed, the July 1, 1960, carryover probably was around 4 million bushels.

Last year CCC acquired about 56 million pounds of linseed oil (equivalent to some 2.8 million bushels of flaxseed) under a toll crush program. It

was for part of the flaxseed taken over by the Corporation in connection with its 1958 price support operation. CCC offered linseed oil for sale on a competitive bid basis and by the end of April 1960 had sold its entire inventory for export.

The average price for raw linseed oil in tank cars at Minneapolis during the 1959-60 marketing year was 13.5 cents a pound, compared with 12.9 cents a pound in 1958-59. Linseed oil prices this summer will probably remain stable, or possibly increase slightly, because of the good export demand for flaxseed and the seasonal pickup in the drying oil industry.

Linseed oil continues to be the major drying oil used in protective coatings although its use has declined in recent years. The decline reflects continuing competition from synthetic materials. During 1959-60 about 450 million pounds of linseed oil were used in drying oil products. That represented less than 50 percent of the total drying oil used in those products. In 1951 linseed oil made up about 58 percent of the total.

Linseed Meal . . .

During the 1959-60 marketing year linseed meal prices averaged \$63 a ton bulk at Minneapolis—about the same as in the previous year. Prices tumbled from the seasonal peak of \$72 a ton in December to \$55 in March and have since remained relatively stable. Prices this summer are expected to continue below the unusually high level of last year.

Last spring farmers indicated that they planned to plant 3.5 million acres to flaxseed this year. This is approximately the same as last year's planted acreage. Average yields on this acreage would result in a crop slightly above probable domestic requirements.

The 1960 crop of No. 1 flaxseed will be supported at a national average price of \$2.38 a bushel, the same as the 1959 support level.

J. Dale Peier
Agricultural Economics Division, AMS

RECORD WHEAT SUPPLY IS IN SIGHT FOR 1960-61

Our total wheat supply for the marketing year which began July 1 is now estimated at a record 2,561 million bushels, 6 percent above the previous record of a year earlier and 26 percent above the 1954-58 average. This increase primarily results from the larger wheat crop in prospect as of June 1—1,271 million bushels, compared with the 1959 crop of 1,128 million.

Carryover . . .

The July 1, 1960, carryover is expected to be about 1,285 million bushels, about the same as the 1,279 million of a year earlier. The official estimate of stocks of old-crop wheat in all positions on July 1 will be released July 25. The bulk of the carryover will again be held by CCC. The 1960-61 supply estimate of 2,561 million bushels also includes an allowance for imports of about 7 million bushels, mostly of feeding quality and seed wheat.

Domestic disappearance for 1960-61 is estimated at about 625 million bushels, slightly above that of the previous year. Exports are assumed at about 500 million bushels, only slightly different from the 510 million estimated for 1959-60. This would leave a carryover July 1, 1961, of about 1,435 million bushels, about 150 million above the estimated carryover this July and a new record.

Increases in estimated stocks of hard red winter wheat account for any increase in total stocks July 1, 1960 over a year earlier. On the basis of present indications, it appears that the carryover of hard red winter wheat may be up about 66 million bushels from July 1, 1959, while stocks of each of the other classes may be down about as follows: Hard red spring, 37 million bushels; soft red winter, 12 million; durum, 6 million and white, 7 million.

Estimates of production by classes for the 1960 crop will be published in the crop report of July 11. Approximating production of the various classes on the basis of the June 1 crop report and the varietal survey, and assuming total disappearance of 1,125 million bushels, about the same as estimated for 1959-60, it appears that the July 1, 1961, carryover of hard red winter wheat may be up around 138 million bushels. Changes in each of the other classes are expected to be small, but in the case of soft red winter wheat and durum the changes are relatively important.

Hard red winter wheat prices have been declining seasonally since early April. The low for winter wheat prices in recent years has occurred in late June or early July. Prices at Kansas City declined to a low of about 25 cents below the announced support in 4 of the past 5 years. Prices in 1958 declined to about 44 cents below the support, reflecting the influence of the heavy marketings of the all-time record crop. Spring wheat prices reach their low point later than winter wheat prices. In 1957 and 1958, spring wheat prices were lowest in late August, but in 1959 prices reached low levels in late July because the small crop caused prices to start advancing earlier than usual.

Average Price . . .

After the heavy movement slackens following harvest, prices to growers will advance, as in other years, reflecting the influence of the support program. The 1959-60 average price to farmers is estimated at \$1.76, about 5 cents above the average support rate after allowing for storage charges. The price in 1960-

(Continued on the next page)



WHEAT—Continued

61 is again expected to average above the effective support rate.

On May 11, Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson announced (1) marketing quotas on the 1961 crop (the eighth successive year), (2) a national wheat acreage allotment of 55 million acres, the minimum permitted by law, and (3) set July 21, 1960, as the date to determine producer approval or disapproval of quotas.

World Trade . . .

World wheat trade in 1959-60 is expected to reach 1,300 million bushels, which is 30 percent above the 1951-55 average of 1,001 million. It is about the same as the 1,308 million in 1958-59 and not much below the record 1,328 million in 1956-57. United States wheat exports for the current year are estimated at 510 million bushels, 67 million or 15 percent more than the 443 million in 1958-59, and the second largest in our history.

Canada's exports for 1959-60 are estimated at slightly less than the 300 million bushels in 1958-59. Increased exports are indicated from Australia and France where larger wheat crops were harvested in 1959. Argentine and Russian exports probably declined from the relatively high level of 1958-59.

Supplies of wheat for export and carryover in the 4 principal exporting countries (United States, Canada, Argentina, and Australia) on June 1 totaled 2,107 billion bushels, about 30 million or about 1 percent below the all-time record for this date a year ago, but 322 million bushels or 18 percent above two years ago. Increases in supplies of 17 million bushels in Argentina and 31 million in Canada more than offset increases of 11 million in the United States and 7 million in Australia.

Prospects for 1960 wheat production in the Northern Hemisphere are generally favorable, and the present outlook indicates the possibility of another near-record crop this year.

The 1,271 million bushels forecast for the United States is 13 percent above the 1959 harvest. Spring seeding in Canada was 93 percent completed by the end of May and weather during the growing season will be the most important factor in determining the final outturn. Spring wheat accounts for about 95 percent of total wheat production in that country. Seeding in the Prairie Provinces was delayed by snow and frequent rains during late April and May, which may have caused some shift from wheat to coarse grains. The full 22.5 million acres intended for spring wheat may not have been seeded.

The outlook is good in Western Europe. Dryness had been a threat in parts of the area during the spring but good rains in early June enhanced spring grain prospects. Conditions in Eastern Europe have been less favorable than for the 1959 crop and the 1960 outturn is not expected to be as large.

In the Soviet Union, weather for spring wheat has been generally better than at this time last year. The increased acreage of spring wheat in the new lands area is expected to partly offset considerable losses of winter wheat in parts of the Ukraine and North Caucasus.

India . . .

Preliminary estimates place the recently completed wheat harvest in India and Pakistan at a new high, despite earlier reports of drought damage and also damage to the ripe crop from untimely rains and hailstorms in parts.

The wheat crop in Japan is tentatively estimated slightly below average. Good yields are expected in China and the grain is said to be of high quality. Growing conditions have been favorable in Turkey and a good crop is expected. Fairly good wheat crops are reported for North Africa.

Robert Post
Agricultural Economics Division, AMS



ARE YOU "UP" ON LIVESTOCK REPORTS?

What is the livestock situation and how can you keep your eye on the ever changing horizon? If you'd like to keep better posted, look at the box on the next page. It lists the reports your Crop Reporting Board issues on livestock and livestock products. Other USDA releases are issued on this subject too—such as Livestock and Meat Situation, Market News, research reports. All are helpful.

These reports can help you, the livestock farmer, analyze the current situation and chart a course to more efficient production and marketing. The reports are also widely used by others in the livestock industry, economists, and government specialists. Accurate, timely, unbiased facts enable all segments of the industry to operate more efficiently without the lost motion that results from inaccurate or incomplete information.



The Board publishes a variety of reports on livestock and livestock products, as you can see. The reports provide information on current developments, as well as farmers' intentions.

If you see a report you need, contact your State statistician. He can send you a sample copy or have your name added to the mailing list.

Estimates for States are prepared in the State statistician's office. The reports are geared to fit local conditions. The data for each report are obtained directly from a cross section of the people involved—farmers, cattle feeders, slaughtering plants, and others. Several of the reports are based on nearly a complete coverage of the producers or processors involved.

The estimated number of head and live weight of cattle, calves, hogs, sheep, and lambs slaughtered monthly by States is based on complete coverage of Federally inspected slaughtering

plants and about 70 percent enumeration of the volume slaughtered in non-federally inspected plants.

Several of the reports on livestock are based on data summarized from surveys on June 1 and December 1 in cooperation with the Post Office Department. Rural mail carriers distribute questionnaires for each survey to a cross section of farmers along their route. Farmers report on their own operations. These data are summarized in the State statistician's office.



Reports based on these survey data include: Inventory of livestock on farms, number of calves born, pig crops, lambs saved, sheep shorn, and wool production.

The cattle and calves on feed estimates, issued monthly for Arizona and California and quarterly for the 26 important feeding States, are based on reports obtained directly from cattle feeders—virtually complete coverage of the large feeding operations and a cross section of the other commercial and farm feeding operations. The January 1 report of cattle on feed also includes 11 Southern States—here again feeders supply the basic information.

The January 1 estimated number of sheep and lambs on feed is based on a



survey of farm and commercial feeders of sheep and lambs.

On January 1, information is obtained from livestock farmers on the average price of each specie and classification of livestock on their farms. These prices are used in computing inventory values of livestock on farms January 1.

(Continued on the next page)

REPORTS—Continued

The disposition reports for meat animals are annual summaries of the estimates in many of the reports listed above. The disposition reports not only show total production separated as to sales and home consumption, but also include average prices received for animals sold, cash receipts, and gross income by States and for the Nation.

Information used to determine average prices received by livestock farmers for hogs, beef cattle, calves, sheep, and lambs is obtained from producers, country buyers, dealers, and livestock auctions. Prices received by farmers and production data enable producers to evaluate the situation and adjust production accordingly.

Reports on average prices for various components of livestock feed are based on information obtained principally from feed dealers and manufacturers. The comparisons of prices received for livestock and prices paid for feed are valuable for the producer.

The report of range feed and livestock condition is based on a survey made monthly in the 17 important range-grazing States. The report summarizes the condition of cattle, sheep, and goats, and the range they are using in these States.

The number of cattle and calves, and sheep and lambs inspected from public stockyards by market origin and State of destination is reported by the public stockyards.

Shipments . . .

The report on shipments of stocker and feeder cattle and sheep into several Corn Belt States is a compilation of State veterinarian inspection certificates for these States.

The present reporting program is constantly reviewed and modified to keep up with changes in the livestock industry, and to meet the increasing demands for new reports and for more detailed breakdowns of existing estimates.

E. B. Hannawald
Fraser T. Galloway
Agricultural Estimates Division, AMS

LIVESTOCK REPORTS

1. Livestock on farms on January 1 by classes, value per head, and total value, by States (publ. in Feb.).

2. Sheep and Lambs on Feed January 1, number on feed by States in leading States (publ. in Jan.).

3. Cattle and Calves on Feed: Total number on feed, by States, number on feed by classes, by weight groups, and length of time on feed, marketings and placements in leading States (publ. monthly for Arizona and California, quarterly for other leading States in Jan., Apr., July, and Oct.).

4. Number of calves born during the year, by States (publ. in Feb.).

5. Number of sheep shorn, wool production and value, by States (publ. in Feb.).

6. Number of goats clipped, mohair production, and value by States (publ. in Feb.).

7. Number of head and live weight of cattle, calves, hogs, sheep and lambs slaughtered in commercial plants by States, meat production by species and lard production for the United States (publ. monthly).

8. Annual estimates total commercial and farm slaughter and meat production, United States (publ. in May).

9. Early lamb crop situation in 10 States (publ. in Mar.).

10. Annual estimates of production, disposition, cash receipts and gross income from meat animals by States (publ. in Apr.).

11. Early lamb situation in 10 important States (publ. in May).

12. Pig crop estimates with number of sows farrowing and inventory numbers issued quarterly for Corn Belt States (publ. Mar., June, Sept. and Dec.).

13. Pig crop estimates with number of sows farrowing and future farrowings indicated by breeding intentions, for all States (publ. June and Dec.).

14. Number of lambs saved for the year, by States (publ. in July).

15. Expected number of calves born and to be born during the year, by States (publ. in July).

16. Number of sheep shorn and wool production, by States (publ. in July).

17. Lamb Feeding Situation, November 1 (publ. in Nov.).

18. Monthly data for cattle and calves, sheep and lambs inspected from public stockyards by market origin and State of destination (publ. monthly).

19. Stocker and feeder cattle and sheep received by States in several Corn Belt States (publ. monthly).

20. A monthly report of range and livestock conditions for the West (publ. monthly in Denver, Colo.).

21. Monthly average prices received for hogs, beef cattle, calves, sheep, and lambs per hundredweight (publ. monthly).

22. Monthly average prices paid by livestock producers for various grains and forages by States (publ. monthly).

"Bert" Newell's

Letter

I am moved to write about some very good friends of ours and friends of yours, too. Now when a guy starts out by being moved to do something, my first inclination is to get a good grip on my pocketbook and keep a sharp lookout for the deal. But relax; I am not running for anything, and I am not trying to put over a deal. What really "moved" me this time was a note I received from a very good friend of ours here in the Department of Agriculture. He wrote about the "mail lady" who served their rural mail route out in the Far West years ago. He told about—but I'll just quote his letter; that will be the best way.

"I well remember the 'mail lady' who used to bring the mail to our box. As youngsters we used to watch for the dust of her buggy in the neighbor's lane and then we would 'hightail' it to the box, hoping to get there when she arrived. Mail was an event in those days—any mail. We prized most of all, I think, the free samples that came to my coupon-clipping sister. It was a little like Christmas to gather around her all out of breath from the run to the box and watch as she opened a small package of face powder or tooth paste.

"The mail lady was our friend and on the days she drove by as we waited at the box, with only a wave, I think that she was a little sad for us. We were sad but had hopes for tomorrow."

I was once county agent in a county where there were almost no paved roads and communications were a bit difficult. Often a rural carrier would drop in the office to let me know that one of my farmers had sick hogs or needed a little help on something or other. They could always bring me the news of crops, of what was going on in their routes, of how old Mr. Brown was getting along, of new babies, and so on. One carrier used to keep a supply of candy or chewing gum in his pocket for the kids that met him along his route.

I could go on and on about the importance of the mail service, but for now I just want to mention briefly a service which rural mail carriers perform that is of vital importance to our entire economy.

For just about a century now the crop and livestock reporting service has been the source of basic information on agriculture, the Nation's biggest business. This service has been built largely on two things—the huge crops of voluntary reporters and the mail service, particularly the rural carrier.

Some 40 years ago the service was under great pressure to improve its system. One of the biggest problems was to maintain an up-to-date mailing list of farmers. The answer came in large measure when the Department of Agriculture and the Post Office Department got together on a cooperative arrangement whereby rural mail carriers distributed 10 to 20 questionnaires to representative farmers along their routes. This cooperative undertaking was an immediate success, and it has continued down through the years. These so-called "rural carrier" surveys are an important source of information for the basic estimates of acreage and livestock numbers and have proven quite accurate.

We have just released (June 21) the June Pig Crop Report which is one of the most important reports of the year. It was based on returns from 169,000 individual farmers who had filled out cards that had been left by the rural carrier. First, I say thanks to all of you who filled out the information and returned the card, but the rural carrier and our mail service provide the means for getting that information in to the State offices where it can be summarized for the national report.

So here is another place where your friend and ours—the rural mail carrier—is performing a vital service to all of us. He deserves our sincere thanks for his help in making this the most complete and comprehensive crop and livestock reporting system in the world.



S. R. Newell
Chairman, Crop Reporting Board, AMS

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Editor: Nicholas Kominus

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